

THIS OPINION WAS NOT WRITTEN FOR PUBLICATION

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today (1) was not written for publication in a law journal and (2) is not binding precedent of the Board.

Paper No. 23

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte HUI HU and ARMIN H. PFOH

Appeal No. 97/2300
Application No. 08/282,671¹

ON BRIEF

Before HAIRSTON, KRASS, and HECKER, Administrative Patent Judges.

HAIRSTON, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the final rejection of claims 1 and 2. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in

¹ Application for patent filed July 29, 1994.

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The disclosed invention relates to a computed tomography imaging system that uses a two-dimensional array of detector elements. A switch assembly connected to the two-dimensional array of detector elements through row enable lines selectively enables the detector elements in response to control signals.

Claim 1 is the only independent claim on appeal, and it reads as follows:

1. A computed tomography imaging system which comprises:

a two-dimensional array of detector elements for receiving photons emanating from an x-ray source and producing electrical signals proportional thereto, the detector elements being located in rows which define an in-slice direction and the same detector elements being located in columns which define a slice direction; a digital acquisition system having a set of pre-amplifiers, one pre-amplifier for each column of the array of detector elements, and each pre amplifier being connected to receive the electrical signals produced by the detector elements in the pre-amplifier's corresponding column of the two-dimensional array of detector elements;

a switch assembly connected to the two-dimensional array of detector elements through row enable lines and being operable in response to control signals to selectively enable the detector elements in each row to apply their electrical signals to their corresponding pre-amplifiers; and

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computer means for operating the computed tomography imaging system to perform a scan comprised of a series of views in which the switch assembly is operated to enable successive pairs of rows of detector elements such that the electrical signals from successive pairs of detector elements in each column are simultaneously applied to the column's corresponding pre-amplifier.

The reference relied on by the examiner is:

Ribner et al. (Ribner)	5,430,748	July 4, 1995
		(filed Feb 28, 1994)

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ribner.

Reference is made to the brief and the answer for the respective positions of the appellants and the examiner.

OPINION

In the claims on appeal, the switch assembly is connected to the two-dimensional array of detector elements through row enable lines, and is operable in response to control signals to selectively enable the detector elements. In Ribner, the switching control 70 is connected to a switching matrix 60, and not to the array of detector elements 14 (Figure 4). The switching control 70 selectively enables FETs 62₁ through 62₈ in the switching matrix 60 via control signals T₁ through T₄

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(Figure 7). The switching control 70 never selectively enables any of the detector elements in the array 14.

In summary, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1 and 2 is reversed because "Ribner et al . . . does not have . . . 'row enable lines' that can 'selectively enable detector elements in one or more rows' as required by claim 1" (Brief, page 12).

DECISION

The decision of the examiner rejecting claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is reversed.

REVERSED

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KENNETH W. HAIRSTON)	
Administrative Patent Judge)	
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)	
)	BOARD OF PATENT
ERROL A. KRASS)	APPEALS
Administrative Patent Judge)	AND
)	INTERFERENCES
)	
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STUART N. HECKER)	
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DECISION:

Send Reference(s): Yes No
or Translation (s)

Panel Change: Yes No

Index Sheet-2901 Rejection(s): _____

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Draft Final

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OB/HD GAU

PALM / ACTS 2 / BOOK
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